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CANADA'S LARGEST ETHNIC NEWSPAPER

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He is NOT Jamaican

By LINCOLN DEPRADINE

Reports last weekend linking Jamaica to the search for the suspect in the fatal shooting at the Caribana Parade is an example of media bias which stereotypes Jamaicans, says the leader of a prominent Jamaican organization.

Herman Stewart, president of the Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA), said that "the prevalent pattern of media stereotyping of Jamaicans, in particular, and Blacks and ethnic minorities, in general, is cause for serious concern."

Tyrone Edwards, who shot and killed Elrick Kevin Christian and wounded three others on Lake Shore Boulevard on August 3, was deported from Grenada last

weekend.

However, Toronto television and radio stations were reporting on Sunday that he was being returned from Jamaica.

By Monday, when police disclosed that Edwards was picked up at Grenada's Point Saline International Airport, many angry readers called *Share* to complain about the weekend news reports which had linked the suspect to Jamaica.

"The media's recent linking of Jamaica with

the individual allegedly responsible for the Caribana slaying has renewed concerns in the Jamaican community that they are the subject of a subtle vilification campaign," a JCA statement said.

"The Jamaican community's perception of a media bias has been strengthened by this recent reporting, since it fits into an ongoing pattern.

"The not so subtle message seems to be that Jamaicans are either criminals, or susceptible to criminal behaviour."

Stewart said members of the Black community should respond in writing to every incident of bias and unfair media

reporting, and forward their complaints to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission.

Edwards, 25, was born in Canada but his parents are Grenadian.

Police in Grenada said they were informed that Edwards would be arriving on a chartered flight

with other passengers visiting for that country's carnival, which ended on Tuesday.

He was apprehended at the airport and escorted in handcuffs on a flight to Barbados.

Edwards was detained at the airport in Barbados until the arrival of two Metro Toronto

police officers, who brought him back to Canada.

The Markham man appeared in a Toronto court on Sunday, and was ordered detained until another hearing on September 11.

He is charged with first degree murder in the
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